

Application Number 09/737,540
Amendment dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims have been amended to remove the subject matter objected to by the examiner. It is believed that the rejections are overcome, and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ishibashi, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,150,690). In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

The claims are amended to set forth details of the applicants' claimed wiring of a semiconductor device. Specifically, the claims are amended to set forth the details of the applicants' groove formed in the second insulation layer over the via hole. The groove is wider than the via hole and has a depth less than the thickness of the second insulation layer. It is believed that this subject matter now set forth in the amended claims is neither taught nor suggested by Ishibashi, *et al.*

Referring to Figure 36 in Ishibashi, *et al.*, there is no teaching or suggestion of a third conductive layer formed in a groove over a via hole which is wider than the via hole such that the third conductive layer has a thickness less than the thickness of a second insulation layer formed on a first insulation layer. Accordingly, Ishibashi, *et al.* fails to teach or suggest the invention set forth in the amended claims. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Ishibashi, *et al.* is respectfully requested.

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In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that, upon entry of this Amendment, all claims pending in the application will be in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is requested that this Amendment be entered and that the case be allowed and passed to issue. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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